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HEURANCINIC ACID AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM FUNCTION

(Neuraminic Acid in the Brain and Tissues of Various Animals)

Norman Eldredge Windsor Cutting George Read

2431

Department of Medical Microbiology Stanford University, Stanford, California

> Contract No. AF 49(638) - 714 Project 9777 Task 37700

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The Air Force Office of Scientific Research
Air Research and Development Command
Washington 25, D. C.

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ABSTRACT

A comparative study of the sielic acid concentration of the brains and tissues of various animals was made in order to determine whether differences were present which could be correlated with the phylogenetic level of the nervous system.

Sielic acid, probably in the form of Neacetylneuraminic acid (NANA) was present in chardate brains in both the ganglicaide, G, and lipid-free residue, R. For G the range was 300-600 mg. % of the total lipids and for R, 350-600 mg. % of the total lipid-free residue. There were no differences which could be correlated with the phylogenetic level of the nervous system.

In animals with diffuse nervous systems whole tissues were analyzed and compared to whole mouse tissue. In whole mouse, sea urchins, and class the R and G fractions were similar and contained both MAMA and M-glycoylneuranisic acid, NGMA. In smalls the R fraction contained MAMA, NGMA and an unidentified spot with the color characteristics of skikimic and quinic acids. The G fraction contained no MAMA. Chitens and sea anenomos were similar; the G fraction contained both MAMA and NGMA while MAMA was missing in the R fraction. All the whole tissues except the sea urchin contained unidentified spots in addition to the MAMA and MCMA.

NEURAMINIC ACID AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM FUNCTION

(Neuraminic Acid in the Brain and Tissues of Various Animals)

The research carried out under this contract has been concerned with the problems of determining the role of sielic acids (i.e. N-acetyl-neuraminic acid, NANA) in central nervous system function. In an earlier technical note (1) experiments were described in which NANA was injected into experimental animals with no measurable physiological effect. If NANA does have a physiological function which we were unable to measure, it may be that its addition to animals already having a normal concentration of NANA would not be expected to show any physiological activity. A better test animal, then, would be one in which NANA was depleted, lacking or inactivated in some manner. The experiments described here include a comparative study of the sielic acids present in the brains and tissues of various animals in order to determine whether there are species which do not have NANA. It was also thought that the NANA concentration in the brain might be correlated in some manner with the positions of the animals on the evolutionary scale. Such a correlation might provide a clue to NANA function.

PROCEDURE

Whole brains of animals were employed for the phyla Chordata and Arthropoda (Cancer magister). The chordates analyzed were man, cattle, pigs, Long-Evans and Wistar rats, Swiss Webster mice, California white Leghorn chickens, turtles, gopher snakes, grass frogs, and rainbow trout. For larger animals, single, whole brains were used, while with smaller animals it was necessary to pool the brains. The human brain was a mixture of 50 percent white and 50 percent gray matter from a case of subscute sclerotizing leuccensephalitis obtained as a dried sample from G. W. F. Edgar. The brains were removed immediately upon sacrificing the animals and in general were not perfused. A comparison of perfused and non-perfused rat brains showed no significant difference (Table 1). The isolated brains were

then freeze-dried, held in vacuo over P205 for 48 hours, and weighed again to determine the water content.

The phyla with diffuse nervous systems that were analyzed included the Mollusca: land snails, clams, chitons (Cryptochiton stelleri); Echinodericte; sea urchins (Strongylocentrotus purpuretus); and Coelenterata: sea anenomes (Anthopleura Xanthogrammica). Only the soft tissues of these animals were used except with the sea urchins where only the Aristotle's lantern was used. A whole mouse was analyzed in the same manner as representative of animals with a central nervous system; the tissues were homogenized and then dried as with the brain tissue.

The dried tissues were divided into two fractions according to the method of Svennerholm (2): a lipid soluble-water soluble fraction which includes the ganglioside fraction, G, and a lipid-free residue R. The lipid soluble-water insoluble fraction was discarded. The fractions were obtained by extracting the tissue under reflux for 2 hours with 10 ml. of methanol; chloroform (2:1). The lipid-free residue was then dried in vacuo over P₂O₅ (after removal of the residual organic solvent, weighed, and the lipid calculated by difference.

Some sialic acid analyses were carried out by hydrolyzing the lipid extract directly after removal of the organic solvents (discussed under correction factors). In the final method adopted, 10 ml. of chloroform and 5 ml. of 0.1 percent NaCl were added to the original 10 ml. of lipid extract. The two phases were then mixed thoroughly and separated by centrifugation. After removal of the aqueous layer the residual organic layer was washed twice with 5 ml. portions of chloroform; methanol; 0.1% NaCl (3:48:47). The three washes were then combined and evaporated to dryness.

The G fraction was dissolved in O.1 N sulfuric acid and hydrolyzed for 3 hours at 80° C in a tube heater. Fig. 1, curve A, shows the hydrolysis time curve for rat brain G fraction indicating the three hour maximum. Three hours

was also found to be necessary for porcine and bovine brain, and the remaining samples were arbitrarily hydrolyzed for the same time period.

Up to 120 mg. of lipid-free residue were suspended in 3 ml. of 0.1 N H₂SO₄ (0.15 N for sea urchins and chitons because of the buffering of salts present) and hydrolyzed for 2 hours at 80° C. Fig. 1, curve B, shows the hydrolysis time curve for the R fraction from rat brain. These same conditions were found to be necessary for bovine, porcine, and human brain.

The sialic acid in the hydrolysate was determined by the 2-thio-barbituric acid method of Warren (3). The cyclohexanone layer was read in a Bausch and Lomb spectrophotometer at 550 mu and 530 mu, and the curve of Jacoby and Warren (4) was used to correct the results for interfering compounds which form a chromogen with an absorption maximum at 530 mu.

If rat brain lipid fraction is bydrolyzed directly and then analyzed for NANA, curve A of Fig. 2 is obtained. There is as high as 40 percent interference by the 530 my chronogen; if the figures are corrected for this interference curve C of Fig. 2 is obtained.

On the other hand, fraction G showed only 0 to 8 percent interference (curve B of Fig. 2) for the same pool of brains. Therefore, because of the large correction necessary for brain lipid extract, the G fraction was used for all the data presented here. In the G fraction of the crab brain in contrast to all the other brain samples, the interference was 52 percent. (There is some question regarding the accuracy of dissection of the crab brains and possibly other tissue was included.)

The corrections for the R brain fractions ranged from 9 percent to 18 percent except for crab where the correction was 90 percent.

In the whole tissues the corrections were higher. In the G fraction the interference ranged from 31 percent in smalls to 79 percent in chitons. The interference ranged from 100 percent in sea anenomes to 36 percent for

whole mouse.

Since the main interest was to determine whether NAMA was present, it was hoped that paper chromatography would indicate the presence of sialic acids qualitatively and no further work was done to remove the interfering chromogens during the analytical procedure.

MANA was used as a standard. It was prepared according to the procedure of Martennsonn et al (5) except that the starting material was fraction IV₁ from human blood serum which contained 1.3 percent MANA. The procedure has been outlined in (1). The crude MANA was crystallized from glacial acetic acid (6) or from methanol (5).

N-glycolylneuraminic acid (NCMA) was prepared from porcine submaxillary mucin according to the same procedure.

The results of the sialic acid analyses on enimal brains are given in Table 1 for both the G and R fracteons along with water and lipid content. The whole tissue analyses are in Table 2. The results are calculated in three ways: mg. percent of the total lipids or lipid-free residue, mg. percent of the total dry brain, and mg. percent of the total fresh brain. Where applicable, standard deviations are given calculated according to Dean and Dixon's statistical short-cuts for observations on small numbers of samples (7).

After the brain and tissue samples were analyzed, like specimens were pooled and the sulfuric acid removed by barium hydroxide. The samples were then placed on ion exchange resins just as for the standard NAMA preparation.

These pooled samples were used for the paper chromatography.

Descending paper chromatography was carried out on Whatman No. 1 filter paper in solvent system (EHN), ethanol:H₂0:NH₃(80:20:1). The samples were run individually at a level of 75 to 125 micrograms to determine whether one or more of the sialic acids were present. The samples were then run at a level of 25 micrograms mixed with an equal amount of NANA or NGNA as a further check

on the identity of the spots. A second solvent system (RPH), n-butarol; n-propranol: 0.1 HEC1(1:2:1) was also employed where there was sufficient amount of sample. After drying, whe papers were sprayed with thickarbituric acid after the method of Warren (8). The chromatograms were observed under ultraviolet and visible light and, unless stated otherwise, the samples showed the same color as the MANA and ROWA.

The results of the EHN chromatography are presented schematically in Fig. 3 (d Cractic.) and Fig. 4 (R fraction). The spots for NAWA and NAWA show the range of Re values obtained in seven experiments (NAWA average = 0.33, and HANA average = 0.44)

RESULTS

Man: For the G fraction the results were 178 mg. \$ NANA for dried brain from a 50-50 mixture of cerebral cortex and white matter. Results corresponding to the G fraction have been reported by other workers for these tissues separately (9, 10, 11, 12). If these results are calculated in the same way as ours they range around our sample (158 mg. \$ to 302 mg. \$).

The R fraction of human brain contained 527 mg. \$ NANA in the lipidfree residue. Svenmerholm (13) has reported that in this fraction he

Obtained 600 mg. \$ from the cortex and about half this value from the white
matter. Our results on the basis of 50-50 white ms and cortex would be
higher than Svenmerholm's. Our results agree with Svennerholm in the finding
that the R fraction had a higher NANA content than the G fraction. The
actual ratio of R NANA/ G NAPA was 1.7 for dry brain.

Since the Literature reports that NAMA is the form of stalic acid in human brain (13, 14) for both G and R fractions, the human sample was not chromatographed.

Beef: The bovine G fraction contained 207 mg. \$ MANA in dry brain. The total brain NANA was 355 mg. \$ which is lower than the 465 mg. \$ reported by Svennerholm for calf brain (15).

Chromatography showed only NANA in the G Traction. Whether the similar acid was also in the form of O-acetyl was not determined since this form would be destroyed in the use of the ion exchange columns.

The R fraction contained 148 mg. \$ MANA in dry brain. In contrast to the buman results the ratio of R NANA/ G NANA was 0.7.

In EHN only MANA was evident at the 125 microgram level, but in solvent MPH a spot at the level of NGNA was discernable. The spray technique is supposed to detect 5 micrograms of NANA (8). The questionable presence of NGNA in bovine brain is in contrast to the high percentage, 64 %, in serum and kidney of ox (14).

Pork: The G fraction contained 195 mg. \$ NANA in dried brain with a total of 332 mg. \$ NANA, as compared to a total of 445 mg. \$ obtained by Svennerholm (15). In solvent EHN only NANA was present at the level of 100 micrograms, but in solvent EPH there may have been a spot at the level of NCMA. Considerable tailing in this solvent made it difficult to determine individual spots.

The R fraction contained 137 mg. \$ NAMA for dry brain, with the ratio of R/G NAMA 0.7 as for bovine brain. The chromatography results were similar to those of bovine brain except that there appeared to be more material at the level of NGNA in solvent BPH. These results are similar to those for hog serum (15% NGNA), kidney (14% NGNA) and gastric mucosa (20% NGNA) (14).

Rat: The NAMA content of the G fraction was 256 mg. \$ for dry brain (30% higher than the results of Long and Staples (16) who reported on lipid NAMA from cerebral cortex and white matter.

Chromotography of 75 micrograms in solvent EEN showed the presence of HANA, material in the R_f range from 0.2 to 0.3 and a spot at 0.55. In solvent BPH

the failing was so intense with 100 micrograms that only MANA could be distinguished with certainty.

The R fraction contained 201 mg. \$ MANA in dried brain with a ratio of R/G of 0.8 which was similar to the bovine and porcine results.

Chromatography of 75 micrograms of R simils acid in solvent EHN showed NAMA, a small spot at 0.33, and also at 0.55

Mouse: The G fraction contained 312 mg. \$ NANA in cry brain, the highest value among the animals analyzed. The R fraction contained 218 mg. \$ NANA in dry brain with an R/G ratio of 0.7 (the same as the other mammals, except the human). In solvent EHN at 125 micrograms only NANA was discernable in both fractions. In solvent EPH at 25 micrograms, this was also true.

Turtles: The turtle results were 124 mg. \$ and 189 mg. \$ NANA in dry brain for G and R respectively, with a ratio of R/G of 1.5 similar to the human results.

The chromatography results were not clear-cut and because of the lack of material could not be repeated. This is true for both G and R and the results were obtained in solvent EHN only. When 100 micrograms of sialic acid were chromatographed alone, a single spot was obtained with an Rf of 0.33. When the chromatography was repeated with the addition of NCNA two spots were evident, one with the Rf of 0.44 indicating NANA. The question as to whether NGNA is also present above that which was added is unanswered. A porcine sample that was analyzed at the same time as the 100 microgram turtle sample also had an Rf similar to NGNA, but on repeating the porcine sample several times, the Rf was 0.44 indicating NANA. The turtle spot was also elongated so that it is possible that two components were present; however fish sinlic acid run at the same time also appeared elongated and was later determined to be only NANA.

Snakes: The results for gopher snakes were very similar to those for turtles both analytically and chromatographically. The G fraction contained 161 mg. \$ and the R fraction 163 mg. \$ RANA in dry brain with an R/G ratio of 1.

Both fractions contained MANA, but may also contain NENA.

Frog: Dry frog brains contained 135 mg. \$ G NANA and 285 mg. \$ R NANA. The G fraction was chromatographed at a level of 115 micrograms while the R fraction was chromatographed at 70 micrograms. One spot was visible at 0.33 $R_{\rm C}$. In a mixed sample with NGNA only one spot was also visible, but there may not have been enough frog stalic acid in the mixture to be visible.

One pool of frog brains was quite different from the others. There was a great deal of interfering material (50%) in the thiobarbituric acid tes which was visible to the naked eye.

Fish: Although it was thought that the sialic acid values in rainbow trout would be the lowest among the chordates this was not the case (C = 185 mg. \$, R = 251 mg. \$ NANA in dry brain). The ratio of R/G was 1.3 as for human brain. In solvent EHN at 125 micrograms, NANA was the only component, and in solvent BPH at 25 micrograms, plus and minus NGNA and NANA, the results were consistent with NANA being the only type of stalic acid present.

Unab: Because of the previously mentioned difficulties in dissection, the results on crab may be in error (G showed 7 mg. and R 14 mg. % NANA in dry brain). Chromatography of 14 micrograms of G and 16 micrograms of R in solvent EHN showed one spot with an $R_{\rm f}$ of 0.33. In addition there was also a spot in R with an $R_{\rm f}$ of 0.2.

Table 2 gives the similar acid content of G and R fractions of whole tissues of animals with diffuse nervous systems. Whole mouse tissue was also analyzed for a comparison. The chromatography results are in Fig. 3 and 4. The chromatograms and the analytical procedure showed much more interfering material even in the G fraction. Although the water extraction excluded a tremendous amount of lipid material that was very colored, there were compounds soluble in the aqueous solution that we did not find in the brains of chordates. All of the interference was not removed by resin chromatography; 2-keto-3-deoxygluconic acid

is one compound which would remain on the Powex 2 giving the same colored product as the sialic acids.

Mouse: The concentration of sialic acid in the G and R fraction amounted to 23 mg. \$ and 79 mg. \$ respectively in whole dry tissue which is much lower than the brain content of sialic acid. Long and Staples (16) studying rats, reported that sialic acids in the G fraction were found in the brain, but not in liver, heart, or small intestine, and very little in lung, skeletal muscle, kidney, uterus, and adipose tissue. From our results on sialic acid in the G fraction of blood and brain we found that almost 80% of the sialic acid was still unaccounted for.

Chromatography in EEN showed roughly equal amounts of MANA and NGNA in both fractions. There were also small amounts of material with Rfs of 0.2 and 0.56. Warren (17) has reported the presence of NCNA in rat vagina.

Shail: By analysis, shails showed 6 mg. \$ G NANA and 79 mg. \$
R NANA in dry tissue. On chromatography of 37 micrograms of G no NANA
was found. Considerable material remained at the origin. There was a
small amount of material with Rf about 0.3 which showed tailing from the
origin.

The R fraction (125 micrograms) showed very intense spots at NAMA and NGNA in solvent EHN. The spot at NAMA was greenish-blue, however. When this sample was run in HPH for 57 hours instead of 24 hours the two spots were separated into two spots at the position of NAMA and NGMA, and the blue spot was ahead of NAMA. Because the solvent front had moved off the paper, the Rfs could not be calculated. Under ultraviolet light the NAMA and NGMA spots were identical in color to the known samples of NAMA. The two spots were not isolated and rechromatographed to determine definitely whether they were KAMA and NGMA. The greenish-blue spot was lavender under ultraviolet light. Shikimic acid and quinic acid (18) have these color characteristics, but we did not determine

whether the unknown was either of these acids.

Sea unthin: The results on the Aristotle's lanterns of sea unchins were 5 mg. % for 6 NAKA and 20 mg. % for R NANA in dry tissue. The concentration of 6 in the lipid fraction was higher than that obtained in mice, but the amount of lipid was much smaller, making the dry weight results much lower than for mice. Soth 6 and R showed the same chromatography pattern. There were two spots, at 0.33 and 0.44, with somewhat more NGNA than NANA.

Sea anesome: There was no stalic acid in the R fraction in sea anesomes since the correction factor was 100 per sent. There were 4 mg. \$ in the dry tissue, however.

There were at least three of these spots. In fraction G at 77 micrograms there was material from Rf 1.6 to 5.9 with perhaps six spots, including one at 0.33 and 0.44. The separation was poor, but a discrete spot was present at 0.65. Fifty micrograms of G in solvent EPH also showed discrete spots at both 0.33 and 0.45. There was a great deal of brown insoluble material at the origin as in the G fraction from spails.

Chiton: Chitons contained from 6 to 8 mg. \$ NANA in dry tissue; in fraction R, 77 micrograms, there was no NANA apparent. Instead there was tailing from the origin down to about an Rf of 0.35. The results were very similar to those of sea anenomes. The G fraction also showed tailing from the origin with perhaps six components including spots at 0.33 and 0.44. There was also a spot at 0.55 as for sea anenomes, but mothing at 0.65.

Clam: Clams contained 3 mg. % and 32 mg. % NANA in dry tissue for G and R fractions respectively. Chromatography of 125 micrograms of G showed a bright pink origin under ultraviolet light, and brownish color under

whele light. There was material from Rf of 0.07 to 0.48 including spots at 0.33 and 0.44. With 90 micrograms of R the results were similar to G.

DISCUSSION

Every animal rected apparently had sialic ucid in the C fraction. In the brain tissue, where the identity was definitely established, the type of sialic acid was NANA. The similar for brain. There was no consistent relationship between MANA concentration and phylogenotic level of the nervous system . If the ganglioside stalic acid ware the same constant for chordate brains then one would expect a decrease in the mg. 7 stalic acid in lipid along the phylogenetic scale from human to fish as the amount of cortex decreases with concommitant increase in white matter. White matter coatains more livid (19) and less similar acid (9, 10). This should also be true on a dry weight basis as the size of the cerebrum decreases with respect to the cerebellum. The latter has been reported as having a MANA concentration similar to cerebral white matter (16). That NANA does not decrease is shown in the bar-graph of Fig. 5. The values for chordate brains cover a two-fold range, from 300 to 600 mg. Z. These differences may be due to different emounts of di- and mono, sialogangliosidds which have recently been isolated (20). The lipid-free recidue values are from 330 to 560 mg. %

There is also no systematic relationship between the ratio of R/G MAMA on a dry weight basis in chordates. Human beings, turtles, snakes, fregs and fish have ratios above one, while the remainder are below one. As ag. I of the respective brain fractions, only rate, mice, and chickens have an R/G ratio below one. It appears that if the NAMA concentration of G is from 500 to 600 mg. I, then the G values are higher than for the R fraction. The reverse appears to be true if the concentration of the G fraction is 300 mg. I. Whether these figures have any significance is not known.

In the whole animal tissues the concentration of sinic acid was less in the lower forms of animals when compared to mice except for the sea wrchin (See Fig. 5). NAMA appeared to be absent in smail and crab but NGMA was present in these and the other whole tissues tested. There were also other acidic compounds which were unidentified. In whole mouse, see wrchins and clams, the sinic acids of the B and G fraction were similar.

In chitoms, sex anemomes and smalls they were not. Chitoms and sex anemomes resembled each other. The G fraction contained both NAMA and NGNA, but in the R fraction only NGNA was present. Smalls differed from all other samples in having a greenish-blue spot which was ahead of NAMA on paper.

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Fig. 1. Hydrolysis of Bound N-acetylneuraminic acid in Rat Brain vs. Time

A. Time curve for gaughioside NAMA as mg. \$ 01 total brain lipids (80° C, O.1 N H2SO4)

B. Time curve for Residue NAMA as mg. % of total brain lipid-free residue (80° C, 0.1 N H₂SO₄ for 75 min. and 2 hrs.; 90° for 65 min., 2,3, 4, and 5 hrs.)

(All values corrected for interference)

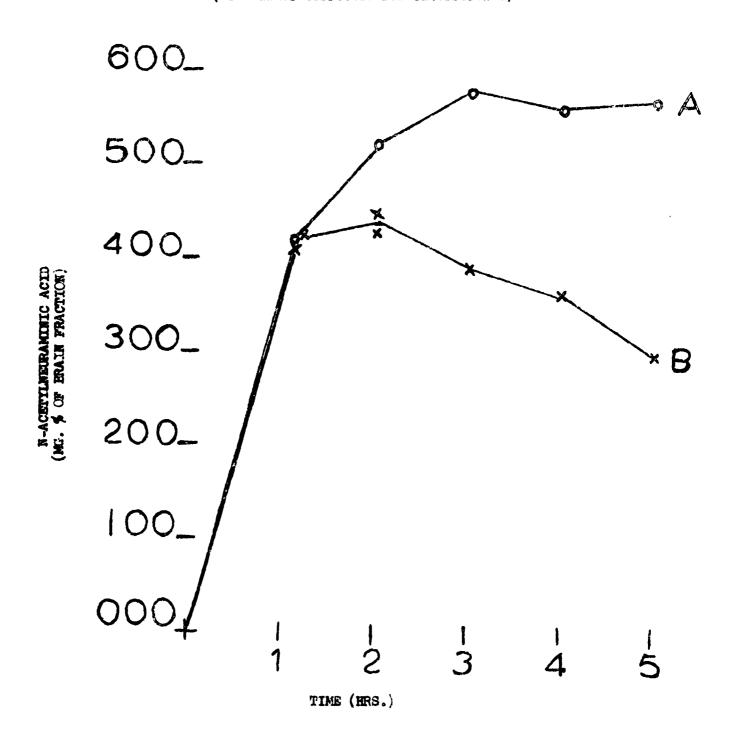


Fig. 2. Comparison of bound M-acetylneuraminic acid (MAMA) from rat brain Ganglioside and total lipid ve. time (0.1 M H2SO4, 80° C)1

- A. Hydrolysis time curve for total lipid MANA (uncorrected)
- B. Hydrolysis time curve for ganglioside MANA (corrected)
- C. Some as curve A after correction for interferring absorption with maximum at 530~mg

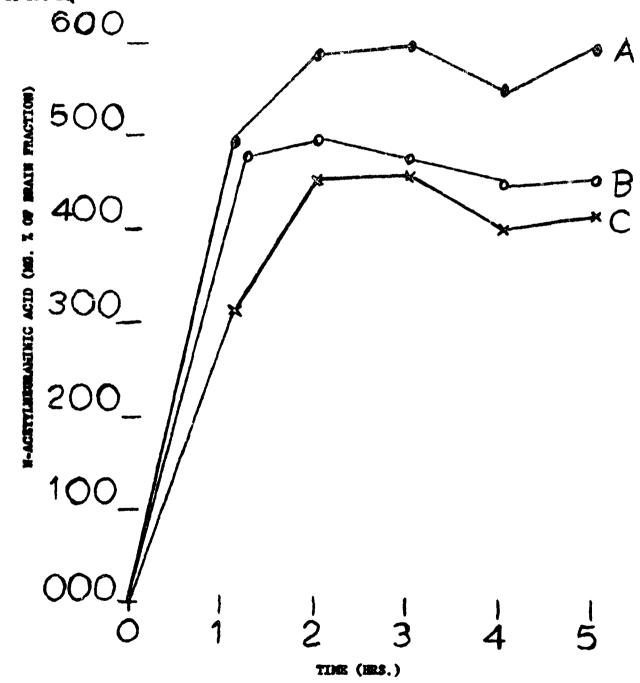


Table 1

The sialic acid content of brain functions of animals (calculated as N-acetylneuraminic acid)

animal a		18 ₂ 0	% Lipids		Ng. I Ganglioside NANA			Mg. I Lipid-free residue		
	No. samples	total brain	total solide	tatal brain	total limids	total solids	total brain	total residue	total solide	total brain
Hau	1	76*	57	14	311	178	43	527	225	54
Boef	1	80	61	12	342	207	42	3 75	148	30
Pork	1	83	62	10	315	195	32	360	137	23
Kat	7 a.d.+	79±	51± 3	117	510± 74	256 ± 45	57主 12	405 ± 110	201 ± 50	46土
Ret (perfused	5) a.d.	30±	52± 2	111	513 ± 31	265 <u>士</u> 28	54± 4	450 ±	218 ± 32	45±
House	2 s.d.	79 ± 2	53± 12	11 ±	612 ± 17	312 ± 10	64 ± 2	458 ± 3	225 ± 16	46 ±
Chicken	3 a.d.	80±	50± 5	10 <u>±</u>	570 ± 48	286 ± 12	59±	415 ±	205± 15	42 ±
Turtle	3 a.d.	82 ±	44± 2	8± 1	282 ± 48	124 ± 23	22± 5	335 ± 81	189± 47	33 ±
Snake	3 s.d.	10全	54± 2	10±	301 ± 31	161 ± 18	32 ±	347 ± 132	163 ± 67	32 ±
Frog	4 s.d.	85 * 2	45± 2	7± 1	295± 108	135 ± 53	22 ± 10	520 ★ 113	285± 65	"有
Pieb	4 ? s.d.	80±	56 +	111	324 ± 21	185 å	37±	563 ★ 16	251 ±	50±
Crab	1	83	36	6	20	7	1	21	14	2

^{*} value taken from reference 21

⁺ standard deviation calculated as \pm vK_w where v = range and K_w is a constant from Table 4 of Dean and Dixon (8)

[&]quot; 3 samples instead of 4 for the ganglioside sialic scid.

Table 2

The stalic scid content of whole tissues of various animals

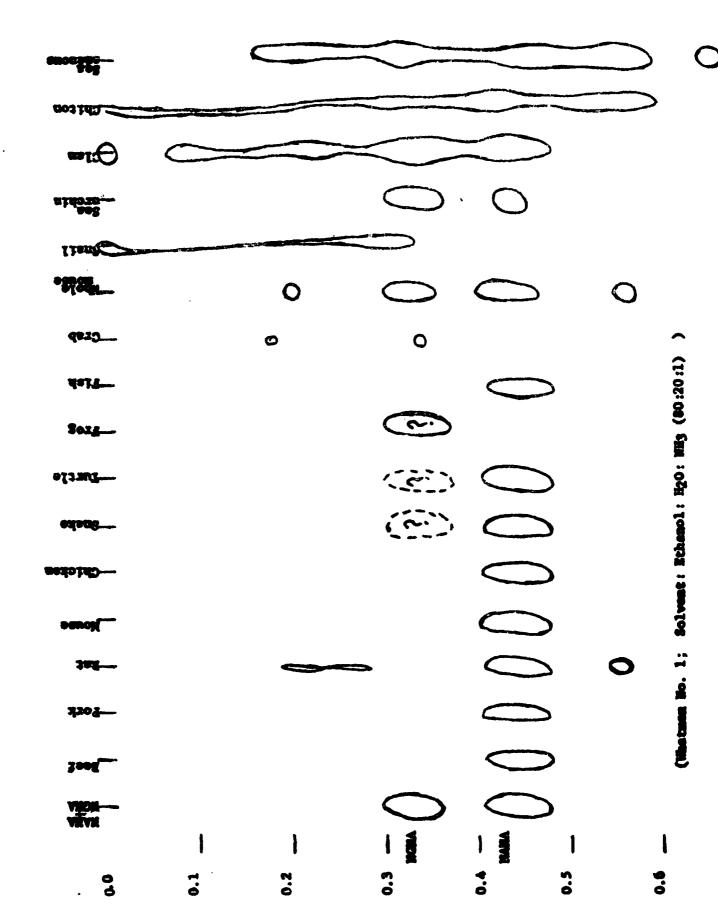
(Calculated as N-scetylneuraminic seid - NAMA)

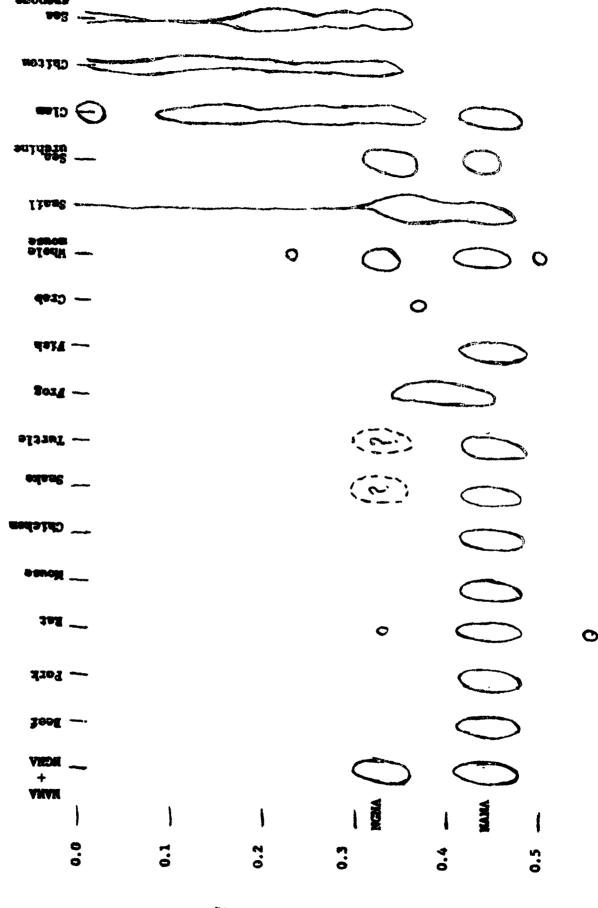
		% H ₂ O % Lipids			Mg. I Geoglioside NAMA			Mg. % Lipid-free HANA		residue
aminul s	Mo. emples		total solids		total lipids	total solids	tot »: brain	total residue	total solide	total brain
Nouse	1	73	33	9	66	23	6	120	79	22
Smail	2 *.d.*	83± 1	16+	3±	36±	6± 2	1"	83± 27	70± 21	12±
Sem wrehim (Aristotle lantern)		50 ± 5	5 ± 1	3	80 ± 8	5 1	2	21 6	20 5	3
Class.	2 *.d.	79 <u>+</u>	19.··	4	17 + 7	3±	>1	40±	32±	5_7
Chiten	1	93	20	2	31	6	71	10	8	1
See ancome	3 •.d.	**************************************	28± 10	6± 2	16±	4 + 2	71	0		

^{*} Standard deviation calculated as for Table 1

I where no s.d. is given it indicates that the value was less than 0.5

⁺ Calculated from 3 values for ganglioside NAMA instead of 4.



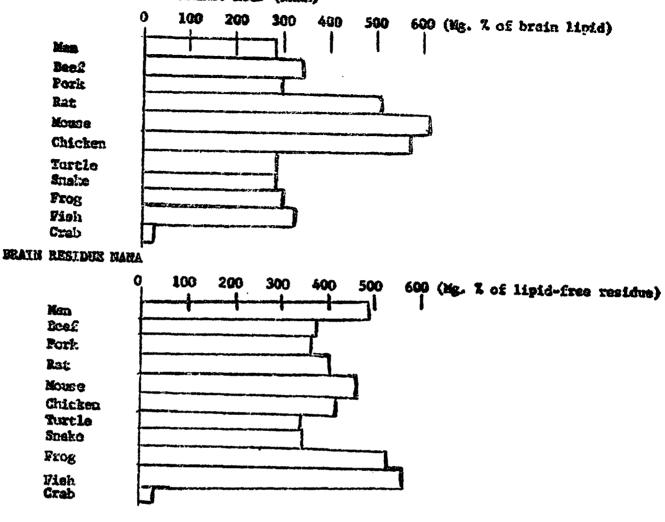


(Whatmen No. 1; Solvent: Ethanol: H20: NH3 (80:20:1)

0.6

H

Fig. 5
N-acetylnouraminic coid in the Brains and Ticeues of Various Animals
BRAIN GARGLIOSIDE NEURAMINIC ACID (MANA)



MEGLE TISSUE CARGLICSIDE HAMA

